Reservoir Operations Study
Environmental Impact Statement

Scoping Document

Prepared by

Tennessee Valley Authority
in Cooperation With the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

July 2002

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Introduction

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is conducting a comprehensive study of its reservoir operating policies to determine whether changes in those policies would produce greater public value. TVA reservoir operating policies guide decisions about when and how much reservoir levels rise and fall, the amount and timing of water released downstream at different times of the year, and how that water should be released. TVA has undertaken this action in response to recommendations from groups and individuals including its citizen advisory group, the Regional Resource Stewardship Council.

Following the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), TVA is preparing a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of the Reservoir Operations Study (ROS). The EIS is being prepared in cooperation with the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. As the lead agency, TVA is responsible for compliance with all aspects of NEPA.

NEPA regulations require an early and open process for deciding what should be discussed in an EIS–the scope of the document. The "scoping process" involves requesting and using comments from the public and interested agencies to help identify the issues and alternatives that should be addressed in the EIS. This document summarizes the input that TVA received during the ROS scoping process and defines the scope of the ROS programmatic EIS.

In addition to agency and public input, the EIS also will address specific requirements associated with a number of other federal laws, such as the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice).

Summaries of this document are being mailed to individuals and organizations who participated in the scoping process. For a copy of the full document, visit www.tva.com or call 423-632-2333.

Project Purpose and Description

Study Objectives

The purpose of the ROS programmatic EIS is to identify and evaluate the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of TVA's current reservoir operating policies and alternative operating policies. Consistent with recommendations for the study, the objectives for the ROS include, but are not limited to:

- Identifying public issues, concerns, and values regarding the TVA reservoir system.
- Identifying key objectives and measures for formulating and evaluating alternative reservoir operating policies.
- Developing clear reservoir operating policy alternatives not constrained by current operating policies.

- Providing factual information on the environmental and socioeconomic effects, as well as engineering considerations, of those alternatives over a 30-year planning horizon.

- Providing opportunities for the public to actively participate in the process.

Geographic Scope

In general, the geographic area affected by the study includes the Tennessee River watershed and TVA's power service area (Figure 1). This area covers almost all of the state of Tennessee and parts of Alabama, Kentucky, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Virginia. The Tennessee River watershed includes 129 counties and covers 40,900 square miles; TVA's service area, including the 170 counties in the power service area, comprises 201 counties and covers approximately 80,000 square miles.

As part of the study, some resource areas (e.g., navigation and flood control) may find it necessary to include parts of the Ohio and Mississippi river systems in the evaluation. Others (e.g., air quality and water supply) may need to include land areas outside of the TVA service area.

TVA Reservoir Operating Policies

Section 9a of the TVA Act directs TVA to manage the reservoir system primarily to promote navigation and control floods and, consistent with these purposes, to generate electricity. To carry out these responsibilities, TVA acquired, constructed, and/or operates 48 dams and reservoirs (also called projects) on the Tennessee River and its tributaries, and Great Falls Dam located on a tributary of the Cumberland River (Table 1). TVA operates these projects in an integrated fashion to provide multiple public benefits (including, but not limited to, flood risk reduction, year-round navigation, low-cost and reliable electricity, improved water quality, economic growth and development, reliable water supply, recreation opportunities, and other benefits to the people living in this region). TVA reservoir operating policies apply to 35 of the 49 projects that make up the integrated system. Of the remaining 14 projects, one is a pumped-storage project that provides additional peaking capacity, and the others are small water retention dams that provide a variety of benefits, such as local flood relief, water supply, and recreation. Most of the smaller projects are essentially self-regulating by means of overflow structures, and their current operations have little impact on the TVA system.

Each TVA dam and reservoir project was built and is operated to accomplish specific, identified purposes. The 35 projects that make up the water control system fall into four groups: 9 multipurpose projects on the main Tennessee River which provide seasonal flood protection, maintain minimum pool levels for commercial navigation, and generate electric power; 12 multipurpose tributary projects which provide seasonal stream flow regulation for flood control, navigation, and hydroelectric power generation; 8 single-purpose power tributary projects which generate hydroelectric power; and 6 tributary multipurpose non-power projects which provide flood damage reduction, water supply, water quality, and recreation.

The TVA reservoir system includes 14 navigation locks located at ten dams. Operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the locks provide an 800-mile commercial navigation channel from the mouth of the Tennessee River at Paducah, Kentucky, upstream past Knoxville,

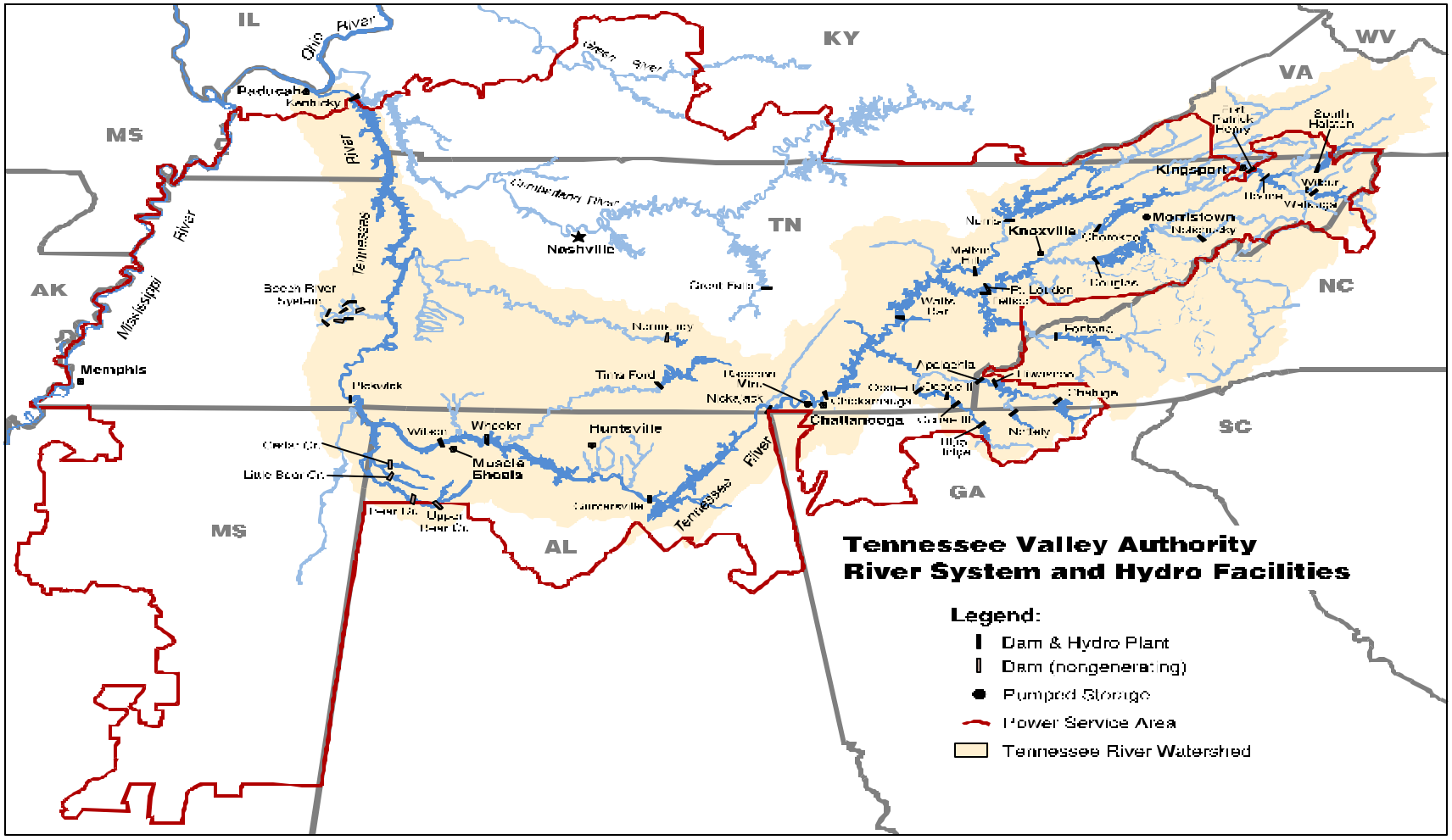

Figure 1. The Tennessee Valley Authority Hydropower Projects and Non-power Dams

Table 1. TVA Hydro Plants and Non-power Dams on the Mainstream Tennessee River and Tributaries, and a Tributary of the Cumberland River Included in the Reservoir Operations Study, and Those not Included

Hydro Plants				Non-power Dams		
Mainstream Tennessee River	**No. Units[1]**	**Flood Storage, million cu m (million cu yd)**	**State**	**Tennessee River Tributary**	**Flood Storage, million cu m (million cu yd)**	**State**
Fort Loudoun	4	137 (179)	TN			
Watts Bar	5	468 (612)	TN	**Little Tennessee**		
Chickamauga	4	426 (557)	TN	Tellico	148 (194)	TN
Nickajack	4	0 (0)	TN	**Duck River**		
Guntersville	4	200 (262)	AL	Normandy	59 (101)	TN
Wheeler	11	431 (564)	AL	**Bear Creek**		
Wilson	21	66 (86)	AL	Upper Bear Creek	0 (0)	AL
Pickwick	6	516 (675)	TN	Bear	46 (61)	AL
Kentucky	5	4,948 (6,472)	KY	Little Bear	29 (37)	AL
Tennessee River Tributary				Cedar Creek	75 (99)	AL
Clinch River						
Norris	2	1,818 (2,378)	TN	**Projects Not Included in ROS**		
Melton Hill	2	0 (0)	TN			
French Broad				**Raccoon Mountain Pumped Storage**	0 (0)	TN
Douglas	4	1,544 (2,020)	TN	**Beech River**		
Holston				Beech	6 (7)	TN
South Holston	1	358 (468)	TN	Cedar	2 (2)	TN
Boone	3	120 (157)	TN	Dogwood	2 (3)	TN
Fort Patrick Henry[2]	2	0 (0)	TN	Lost Creek	1 (1)	TN
Cherokee	4	1,249 (1,634)	TN	Pin Oak	4 (5)	TN
Watauga				Pine	7 (4)	TN
Watauga	2	275 (360)	TN	Redbud	1 (1)	TN
Wilbur[2]	4	0 (0)	TN	Sycamore	1 (1.3)	TN
Little Tennessee				**Beaver Creek**		
Fontana	3	716 (937)	NC	Beaver Creek	6 (8)	TN
Hiwassee				Clear Creek	3 (4)	TN
Chatuge	1	115 (150)	NC	**Nolichucky River**		
Nottely	1	123 (161)	GA	Nolichucky	0 (0)	TN
Hiwassee	2	334 (437)	NC	**Norris Lake**		
Apalachia[2]	2	0 (0)	NC	Doakes Creek	0 (0)	TN
Toccoa/Ocoee River				**Holston River**		
Blue Ridge[2]	1	85 (111)	GA	John Sevier (Detention Dam)	0 (0)	TN
Ocoee 1[2]	5	3 (4)	TN			
Ocoee 2[2]	2	0 (0)	TN			
Ocoee 3[2]	1	0 (0)	TN			
Elk River Drainage						
Tims Ford	1	271 (354)	TN			
Cumberland River – Caney Fork River						

Great Falls[2]	2	0 (0)	TN			

[1]Number of Generating Units
[2]Single-purpose power project

cu m = cubic meter
cu yd = cubic yard

AL = Alabama
GA = Georgia
KY = Kentucky
NC = North Carolina
TN = Tennessee

Tennessee, and into parts of the Hiwassee, Clinch, and Little Tennessee Rivers. TVA operates the reservoir system to maintain a minimum 9-foot depth in the navigation channel (with a 2-foot overdraft) all along this navigable waterway.

Twelve multipurpose tributary projects, built to reduce the risk of flood damage along the river, are operated to regulate flood crests and store runoff for later hydroelectric generation. While the system of reservoirs is not sufficient to eliminate all flooding, except in certain cases, it reduces the risk of major damages along the river. Although Blue Ridge, Ocoee 1, and Great Falls are single-purpose power projects, each has an annual drawdown. Blue Ridge is operated on an annual cycle similar to the multipurpose projects. Ocoee 1 and Great Falls also have planned winter drawdowns with very limited storage for regulation available in these reservoirs.

Hydroelectric generating facilities (powerhouses) were built at 29 dams and the pumped-storage project. Although the powerhouses were built initially to provide full-time (base-load) generating capacity, the demand for power in the Tennessee Valley exceeded the hydropower capacity of the reservoir system during the 1950s. When the fossil and nuclear generating sources were added, operation of the hydropower system began to be used to meet peak power demands and improve power system reliability. Today, depending on annual rainfall and runoff, the hydropower facilities produce 10 to 15 percent of TVA's average system generation output. TVA is working to implement projects to modernize and automate hydrogeneration operations and equipment. When these projects are complete (around 2013), they are expected to add an additional 720 megawatts of installed peaking capacity, boost efficiency by more than 4 percent, and improve power system reliability.

The annual rainfall and runoff patterns in the Tennessee Valley have a great deal to do with how the reservoir system is operated. Operating guides, developed from long-term stream flow records and project requirements and constraints, identify the water levels that should be met in each reservoir at various times of the year. See Figure 2 for a typical guide curve. The operating guides are intended to make sure enough water can be released to maintain depths in the navigation channel, to make sure enough storage space is available in the reservoir to reduce the risk of possible floods, and, consistent with those purposes, to generate electricity. In addition to these primary objectives, TVA operates the integrated river system to provide for such purposes as mosquito control, aquatic plant management, water quality, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, municipal and industrial water supply, commercial and industrial development, and flows for power plant cooling.

December through early April is the major flood season in the Tennessee Valley because storms tend to be larger, and more runoff occurs during this time of the year. During this period, TVA tributary reservoirs are lowered to provide storage capacity that reduces the risk of flooding at major damage centers, including Chattanooga, Tennessee, and other communities along the Tennessee River and its tributaries, while allowing for hydroelectric power production during periods of peak power demand. Beginning in April when flood risks typically diminish, tributary reservoirs are allowed to fill to reach their summer recreation level by June 1. During June and July, the water is held in tributary reservoirs, except for minimum releases to provide downstream minimum flows, channel depths for navigation, hydroelectric power generation, cooling water for fossil and nuclear plants, and recreational benefits. Between August 1 and January 1, the reservoirs are drawn down to flood storage levels based on the economic use of the water to meet power generation and water quality objectives.

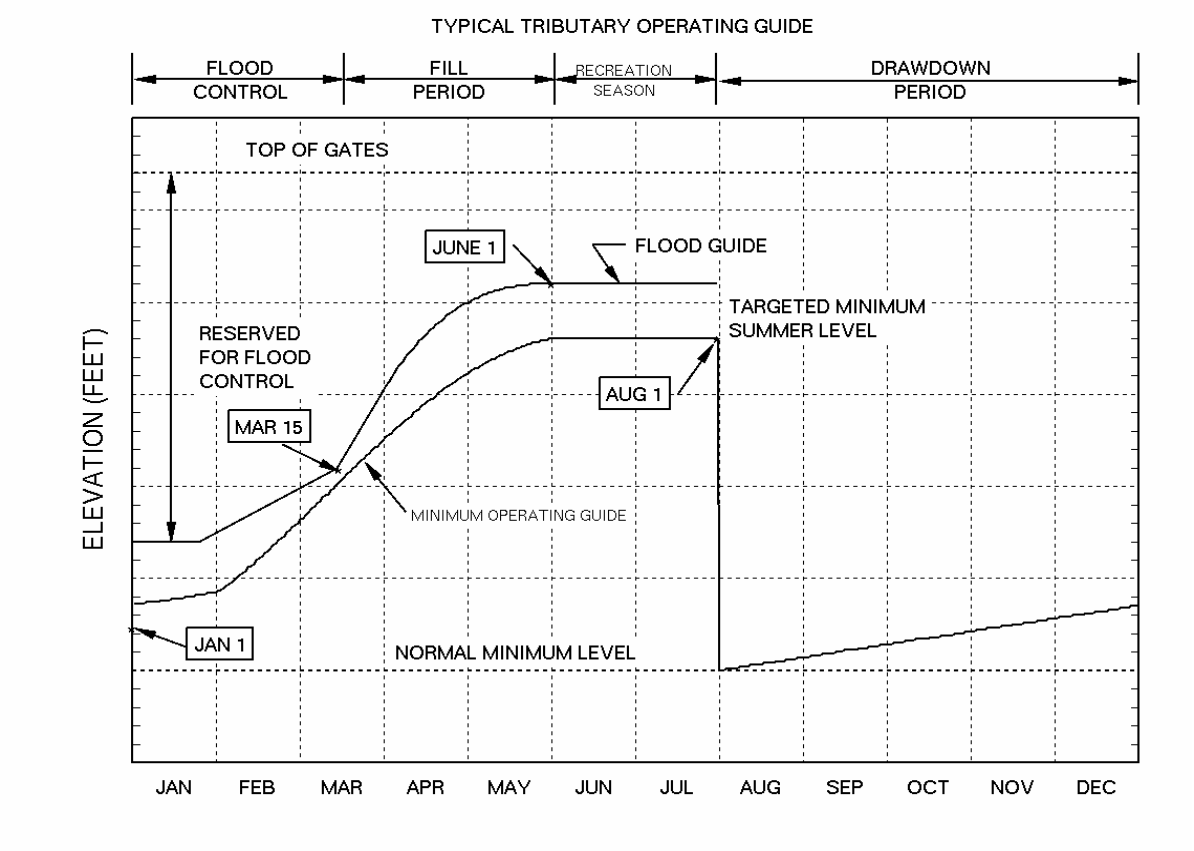

Figure 2. Typical Operating Guide for Tributary Reservoirs

Related Environmental Documents

Tennessee River and Reservoir System Operation and Planning Review EIS—In the late 1980s, in response to public desires and national trends, TVA evaluated its reservoir operating policies, and in February 1991, the TVA Board approved changes to system operating policies that were addressed in the *Tennessee River and Reservoir System Operation and Planning Review EIS*. The policy changes made as a result of that EIS extended summer lake levels on ten multipurpose tributary reservoirs to increase recreation use and associated economic development, and established minimum flows and aerating releases at 16 dams to improve downstream water quality. The present ROS will use the results of the 1991 EIS as a starting point; however, it will include a broader review of the ways TVA operates the reservoir system.

Energy Vision 2020 Integrated Resource Plan EIS—In 1995, TVA completed an Integrated Resource Plan identifying and selecting a long-range strategy that would enable it to meet the additional needs of its customers for electricity from 1996 to 2020. TVA prepared an Environmental Impact Statement on the portfolio of energy resource options, including hydropower that best met TVA's evaluation criteria regarding costs, rates, environmental impacts, debt and economic development. The plan was designed to aid TVA and its customers in addressing the uncertainty that the electric utility industry will face in a de-regulated environment.

Shoreline Management Initiative—In 1999, TVA issued a final EIS on its policies regulating permitting activities and allowed uses for TVA fee-owned and easement properties along 11,000 miles of shoreland in the Tennessee River system. Many of these shorelands are included in the scope of the ROS EIS.

Public Involvement

Public participation in determining the scope of the ROS EIS began in early January 2002, when TVA mailed letters describing the ROS to over 60,000 stakeholders across the Valley and to representatives of agencies and Indian tribes which might be affected or interested. On February 25, 2002, TVA published a notice in the *Federal Register* indicating the agency's intent to prepare a programmatic EIS and inviting interested parties to comment on its scope.

During the 2-month scoping period (February 25 to April 26, 2002), TVA conducted 21 public workshops throughout the Tennessee Valley region (Table 2). About 1,300 individuals participated in the public workshops, including members of the general public and representatives from federal and state agencies, local governments, TVA power distributors, non-governmental organizations, and other special interest groups. Each workshop was staffed by TVA personnel who answered questions about the study, the EIS process, and related environmental issues. Exhibits, fact sheets, and other materials were available at each workshop to provide information about the study and the EIS. Using wireless keypads and a network of computers to answer a series of questions, participants were given the opportunity to express their views about TVA's reservoir system. Keypad responses were projected on a large screen, allowing participants to see how their answers compared with the overall group response. Participants could also submit written comments or have a court reporter record their comments. In addition, TVA sought and accepted comments by mail, e-mail, fax, and telephone.

Table 2. TVA Community Workshops

Date	Location	No. Registered
Thursday, March 21	Catoosa/Walker County, Georgia	61
	Tupelo, Mississippi	13
Saturday, March 23	Murphy, North Carolina	74
	Guntersville, Alabama	45
Tuesday, April 2	Decatur, Alabama	100
	Starkville, Mississippi	7
Thursday, April 4	Paris, Tennessee	47
	Nashville, Tennessee	45
Saturday, April 6	Morristown, Tennessee	108
	Muscle Shoals, Alabama	36
Tuesday, April 9	Knoxville/Loudon County, Tennessee	28
	Chattanooga, Tennessee	96
Thursday, April 11	Blountville, Tennessee	128
	Gilbertsville, Kentucky	225
Saturday, April 13	Norris, Tennessee	28
	Savannah, Tennessee	22
Tuesday, April 16	Blairsville, Georgia	272
	Bowling Green, Kentucky	14
Thursday, April 18	Bryson City, North Carolina	57
	Memphis, Tennessee	9
	Tullahoma, Tennessee	37

TVA also established two groups—an interagency team and a 13-member public review group—to ensure continuous involvement of other agencies and members of the public throughout the study. The interagency team includes representatives from 12 federal agencies and six Valley states. Members of the public review group represent lake user groups, whitewater interests, local governments, local utilities and utility districts, industry, river advocates, fisheries' interests, academia, and other special interests. Several meetings were held with members of these groups during the scoping process. Additional meetings are planned throughout the course of the study.

As part of scoping, TVA received over 6,000 individual comments, copies of form letters from approximately 4,200 individuals, and petitions signed by over 5,400 individuals. Comments were received from people in all seven Valley states served by TVA, as well as a number of other states. In addition to comments from self-selected individuals, a random telephone survey of 3,600 registered voters throughout the TVA power service area was conducted in March 2002 by an independent opinion research firm. This telephone survey provided baseline information for comparison purposes with the results from the public workshops.

Identification of Issues, Values, and Alternatives

TVA staff reviewed and analyzed all of the comments received during the scoping process to help define the scope of the ROS EIS. Comments were sorted into four major categories—issues, alternatives, recommendations, and out of scope comments—and then grouped into more specific subject areas as appropriate. Comments which were considered outside the scope of the ROS (i.e., they appeared unlikely to be affected by, or to have any effect on, the purpose and need addressed by the EIS) were distributed to appropriate TVA staff for consideration apart from the ROS. Such comments included issues, alternatives, and recommendations related to public land and shoreline management, construction of additional nuclear and combustion turbines, education and communication, more enforcement of regulations, increased patrol to control irresponsible reservoir users, and better management of trash and debris.

The scoping process resulted in a broad range of issues and values to be addressed and alternatives to be evaluated in the ROS. Overall, the public placed a high value on recreation, a healthy environment, and water quality. When asked to respond to an open-ended question, what they value most about the Tennessee River system, over one-third of the workshop participants noted reservoir and downstream water-based recreation opportunities. Almost one-third identified protecting water quality, the natural environment, and the natural and scenic beauty of the region. These results generally matched the results of the same open-ended question asked in the telephone survey. Almost one-half said they value recreation and one in five said fishing. Over one-third talked about protecting the region's environment, including water quality.

As part of the workshop keypad exercise, when asked which of TVA's public benefits should be managed as the highest priority, 34 percent noted providing recreation, 21 percent protecting the natural environment, 21 percent providing flood control, 11 percent electricity production, 9 percent water supply, and 3 percent commercial navigation. In contrast, those responding to the telephone survey, when asked to address what should be the highest priority, noted protecting the environment (32 percent), electricity production (28 percent), water supply (17 percent), flood control (13 percent), recreation (5 percent), navigation (2 percent), and unsure or no response (3 percent).

Many of those commenting, including the 5,400 individuals who signed petitions, expressed the desire for TVA to increase recreational opportunities in a variety of ways:

- Hold reservoir water levels stable;
- Delay the date at which summer reservoir water levels are lowered;
- Fill reservoirs earlier to improve fish spawning and subsequent fishing opportunities; and
- Increase the amount of water released from some dams for wade fishing, boat fishing, and recreational boating.

Nearly 4,000 of those commenting requested that TVA change operating policies to protect the diversity of aquatic life and, specifically, to protect endangered, threatened, and other at-risk species. Less than 1 percent of those submitting comments expressed support for TVA to continue its current operating policies.

Issues to be Addressed

Issues to be addressed in the ROS programmatic EIS were initially identified through an internal scoping process and listed in the ROS Notice of Intent. This list of issues was refined based on comments received during the public scoping. The major issues to be addressed in the ROS EIS are impacts to:

- Reservoir and downstream water quality associated with dissolved oxygen, temperature, ammonia, wetted area or area covered by water, velocity, algal biomass, biological oxygen demand, and assimilative capacity.
- Environmental resources, specifically issues related to aquatic resources, erosion and sedimentation, visual resources, cultural resources, federal- and state-listed sensitive species, wetlands, and ecologically sensitive areas.
- Recreational levels, including annual reservoir fill date, annual reservoir drawdown date, and reservoir elevations.
- Recreational flows related to TVA's ability to schedule releases and provide minimum flow amounts for those reservoirs that have an annual fill cycle.
- Economic development associated with tourism and recreation expenditures, property values, flood control, navigation, and power costs and reliability.
- Water supply, including reservoir and downstream intakes and potential interbasin transfers.
- Navigation associated with depth of the channel, speed of the current, and water levels.
- Flood risk on regulated waterways including, but not limited to, the amount and rate of recovery of flood storage capacity.
- Power reliability, including the availability of cooling water at fossil and nuclear plants, fuel delivery by barge for fossil plants, and restrictions on operation of hydro units during critical power periods.

- Cost of power in terms of increase in or loss of hydropower, including total megawatt-hours, seasonal availability, and value during high-cost periods.
- Capital costs associated with modifications, upgrades, additions, and/or removals of structures and equipment needed to implement proposed changes.

The above issues do not imply any predetermination of potential impacts and could be adjusted as analyses proceed. Impacts related to air quality, climate, geology, groundwater, aquatic plants, invasive species, vector control, and terrestrial ecology also will be addressed but, at this time, are not expected to require detailed evaluation.

The issues will be used in the EIS as ways to evaluate the potential benefits and possible adverse effects of changes in the way TVA operates the reservoir system. Objectives, measures, and criteria are being developed for each of these issues to help identify the differences between current and alternative operating policies. Other comparison techniques also may be used by TVA to compare competing alternatives (for example, whether those who would benefit from a change are different from those who would be burdened by it). These secondary measures are likely to be more qualitative and not have specific measures. The intent of all of these evaluation techniques will be to help everyone understand the effects (i.e., value) of each of the alternatives.

Alternatives to be Evaluated

A large number of possible ways to change the TVA reservoir operating policies were identified during the ROS scoping process. Although each of these possible policy changes might be evaluated as a discrete, stand-alone alternative, many of them also could be combined to produce sets of related policy changes. Based on public input and internal scoping, over 60 possible operating policy options were developed. A panel of TVA technical experts conducted an initial evaluation of these options and eliminated from consideration those that would not provide greater public value than the present policies. The remaining options were evaluated again to determine if each could potentially result in significant adverse effects on any of the major evaluation issues. The options that would be expected to result in significant adverse effects also were eliminated from further consideration. This evaluation process and its results were presented to the interagency team and the public review group. Members of both groups endorsed the process.

The policy options were evaluated a third time to help identify ones that would make the most improvements in overall public value. Whenever a possible option was about to be excluded, its concept and any key components were examined to see if they could be retained as part of one or more of the remaining options and be kept for more detailed evaluation. TVA staff deviated from this process only when specific options that had been supported by a substantial number of stakeholders were about to be discarded. In those few cases, TVA retained the options to make sure they were included in the detailed evaluation.

At the conclusion of this evaluation, the following options—including the No Action Alternative—were identified for consideration in the EIS. The No Action Alternative (which is required to be evaluated in an EIS) will serve to document the current operating policies. Under the No Action Alternative, TVA will continue to operate individual reservoirs in accordance with existing guide curves.

No Action Alternative—Continue Current Operating Policies:

- Fill tributary reservoirs to reach summer levels by June 1.
- Begin unrestricted drawdown on August 1.
- Maintain current minimum flows and dissolved oxygen targets.
- Maintain current rate of recovery of flood storage capacity.

Options and/or Alternatives:

Each option could serve as a discrete, stand-alone action alternative, or many of them also could be combined to produce sets of related policy changes. Initially, at least, these options can be thought of as occurring in the main-stem reservoirs, in the tributary reservoirs, or both.

Main-stem Options:

- Change (raise or lower) winter and/or summer pool elevations.
- Adjust spring fill to achieve summer levels earlier.
- Delay summer drawdown to some time later in the year.

Tributary Options:

- Change (raise or lower) maximum and/or minimum summer pool elevations.
- Raise winter reservoir elevations.
- Adjust spring fills to achieve summer levels earlier.
- Delay unrestricted summer drawdown to some time later in the year.
- Replace unrestricted drawdown with restricted, or stepped, drawdown.
- Provide tailwater flows to support wade fishing, boat fishing, and recreational boating.
- Modify rate of flood storage recovery.

Options Which Apply to Both:

- Increase minimum flows to improve water quality and biodiversity.
- Minimize power generating costs and increase power system reliability.

During the next few months, TVA will be evaluating various combinations of these options to identify specific systemwide alternatives to the current operating policies. These combinations will include a reasonable range of alternatives to be evaluated in the EIS. The detailed analyses of these alternatives will take into consideration the variety of water use constraints (such as existing municipal water intake structures) and all of the multiple water use benefits the integrated system provides. Water quality, flood risk, and weekly scheduling models of the reservoir system will be used to determine how well each alternative would meet the operating objectives and help to further refine these alternative operating policies.

It is also possible that TVA could vary the timing and method of implementing any substantive policy changes. Accordingly, TVA anticipates evaluating several implementation strategies in the EIS. For example, based on the list of alternative options, it is likely that some elements of a selected revised operating policy could be implemented immediately, while other elements would be implemented over a period of 5 to 10 years. As detailed evaluation of the operating policy alternatives proceeds, TVA will be better able to determine and identify reasonable implementation strategies. These will be appropriately identified, evaluated, and presented for public comment in the draft EIS, along with any infrastructure changes that may be required. Each of these alternatives will be compared with the current operating policies.

Once all of the alternatives have been refined, a variety of evaluations will be conducted to identify and compare their potential effects on a number of operational objectives aimed at improving the environmental and socioeconomic conditions in the Tennessee Valley. In addition to the potential effects on each of the issue categories, the EIS also will include a discussion of the cumulative effects of each alternative throughout the reservoir system and the TVA region. The results of all of these evaluations will be used to identify a preferred operating policy alternative to be included in the draft EIS.

Several alternatives were eliminated from consideration for detailed analysis in the draft EIS based on the initial screening of alternatives identified during scoping. These include maintaining year-round summer levels on main-stem and tributary reservoirs, reducing minimum flows, removing dams, and filling tributary reservoirs by March 1 and delaying drawdown until after October 1. Alternatives addressing release of recreational flows on the Ocoee River have been the subject of two other EISs, and decisions were made about those releases in conjunction with those EISs. The ROS EIS will consider potential impacts of reservoir operating policy alternatives on these releases, but will not evaluate changes to Ocoee release schedules as an element of those alternative operating policies.

Work Assignments

Work on the ROS EIS is being directed by a Core Project Management Team representing several TVA operating organizations. Field and laboratory activities associated with the study are being conducted by a wider variety of TVA organizations with contractor support. See Appendix A for a preliminary outline of the ROS EIS.

Project Schedule

The present schedule calls for field and laboratory work to be completed by the end of May 2003 and for the draft EIS to be distributed to the public in late summer 2003. Once the public has had a chance to review the draft EIS, TVA will hold public meetings to receive public comments on the draft. The final EIS probably will be completed by December 2003.

Mailing List

TVA is maintaining a mailing list of people who want to receive meeting notices and other information about the ROS. Names may be added to this list by visiting TVA's Web site (www.tva.com), calling toll-free 1-888-882-7675, faxing TVA at 865-632-3146, or writing to: David Nye, ROS Project Manager, Tennessee Valley Authority, WT 11 A, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902.

Acronyms

EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
ROS	Reservoir Operations Study
TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority

Appendix A

Reservoir Operations Study
Environmental Impact Statement
Preliminary Outline

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